



CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT
& HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

Week of Jan 02, 2006

AUSTRALIA

Health alert issued after hepatitis outbreak in Darwin, Australia

A public health alert was issued on Thursday (January 5) after an outbreak of hepatitis in Darwin in Northern Territory, Australia, after at least four people contracted the disease after eating at a hotel. According to health authorities anyone who ate at the Marrara Hotel in Jingili, Darwin, between November 18 and December 3, should consult a doctor if they begin to display symptoms of hepatitis A. The incubation period is up to seven weeks. The virus causes inflammation of the liver and lasts up to three weeks. Symptoms include fever, tiredness, loss of appetite and nausea. The Northern Territory Health Department reports that the alert will stay in force until January 22.

Source:

· Hepatitis outbreak prompts health alert, Jan 05, 2006, <http://news.ninemsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=80183>

CHINA

New Bird flu outbreak in fowl in central Sichuan province China

On Wednesday (January 4), China's Agriculture Ministry confirmed a new outbreak of the H5N1 strain of the bird flu virus in poultry populations in central Sichuan province, marking the first outbreak in China's third largest province. The outbreak was detected December 22 2005, when more than 1,800 birds were found dead on a farm in the town of Yang Jia in Dazhu county. Since the discovery, more than 12,900 birds have been culled in the nearby area in an attempt to stem the spread of the disease. While the cause of the outbreak is still under investigation, Su Lin of the Sichuan provincial health department says that the outbreak "is mostly likely to have been spread by migratory birds, since no bird flu has been reported in other parts of Sichuan or neighboring Chongqing Municipality." Nationwide, it was the 32nd outbreak among poultry since

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COEDMHA's Pacific Disaster Management Information Network (PDMIN) team surveys, compiles and disseminates news reports from various publicly available newswires, websites, and health information networks including but not limited to the World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and ProMed. Some information is presented in its original version. The information contained herein does not necessarily represent the views of the COEDMHA.

early 2005, with 28 of the reported outbreaks occurring within the past three months. Health authorities have also confirmed seven human cases of the disease, including three deaths, from six provinces and regions in China: Hunan, Anhui, Guangxi, Liaoning, Jiangxi and Fujian.

Source:

· Bird flu found in China's Sichuan, Jan 04, 2006, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/4579732.stm>

INDIA

As many as 70 ill from gastroenteritis outbreak in Karnataka, India

As many as 70 people have fallen ill from a gastroenteritis outbreak in the village of Anadur in the Bidar district of Karnataka state. According to local doctors those who fell ill have been treated and cleared from any danger. Despite this, local people have alleged that they became sick from untreated effluents from a nearby distillery, which contaminated the groundwater supply. Viral gastroenteritis is an infection caused by a variety of viruses that results in vomiting or diarrhea.

Source:

· 70 down with Gastroenteritis in Bidar, Jan 03, 2006, <http://www.deccanherald.com/deccanherald/jan22006/update9338200612.asp>

Leptospirosis in southern Karnataka state India

An outbreak of leptospirosis has been reported at Honagera, Badiyal and Mailapur villages in Yadgir taluk in the southern state of Karnataka. According to local officials, 22 of the 65 blood samples tested positive in Honagera village, five of the 48 samples in Badiyal and two of the seven cases in Mailapur. After the first case was reported in Honagera last month, a team of doctors was dispatched to the affected areas. Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that affects both humans and animals. Leptospirosis is confirmed by laboratory testing of a blood or urine sample. Outbreaks of leptospirosis are usually caused by exposure to water contaminated with the urine of infected animals.

Source:

· Outbreak of leptospirosis in Karnataka, Jan 04, 2006, <http://www.newkerala.com/news.php?action=fillnews&id=78624>

INDONESIA

New suspected human case of bird flu in Indonesia

On Monday (January 2) a 39-year old man from Tangerang in Banten province died in another suspected case of bird flu in Indonesia. The patient had a history of contact with live and dead chickens and there have been previous bird flu outbreaks in the area of Tangerang in Banten province. Tests are being carried out to determine whether he died of bird flu. Meanwhile, another suspected human bird flu case in a 48-year old man who died last week, tested negative for the deadly H5N1 virus. If the tests on the 39-year old are proven positive by the World Health Organization (WHO), it will be Indonesia's 12th human fatality from the virus, which has killed more than 70 people

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across Asia.

Source:

· Indonesia: A New Suspected Human Case of Avian Influenza; Another not Confirmed, Jan 02, 2006, <http://promedmail.org>

PHILIPPINES

Woman with meningococemia dies in southern Philippines

On Thursday (December 5) Dr. Herminio Villano Sr., president of Davao Doctors Hospital confirmed that a 26-year old woman from Bolton Riverside in Davao City died on Wednesday (January 4) from meningococemia. The woman was admitted to the hospital on Monday (January 2). A team of health officials has been dispatched to the area to conduct contact tracing and distribute medicine to those who were in contact with the victim. Meningococemia is a sudden onset infection of the bloodstream and subsequent inflammation of the blood vessels caused by the bacteria *Neisseria meningitidis*.

Source:

· Woman with meningococemia dies, Jan 06, 2006, <http://www.sunstar.com/static/net/2006/01/06/woman.with.meningococemia.dies.html>
· <http://>

Other World News

MAURITIUS

250 new cases of Chikungunya virus identified weekly on Reunion island

On this island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean, the Chikungunya virus has infected 6,200 of the island's 760,000 inhabitants. According to reports, an average of 250 new cases are being identified weekly. The Chikungunya virus is transmitted by certain mosquitoes. Symptoms of the virus include severe headache, chills, fever joint pain, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes a rash. In addition the joints of the extremities may become swollen and painful to the touch. Most patients recover within 3-5 days. Since early 2005, a number of Chikungunya outbreaks have been recorded in the west, north, and east rims of the Indian Ocean Basin.

Source:

· Chikungunya - Mauritius and Reunion Island (04): Reunion, Dec 31, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:9229737704291716895::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,31497
· <http://>

PAKISTAN

UN fears increased illness in extreme weather of quake-zone, with 18 pneumonia deaths

On Thursday (January 5) the United Nations warned that the onset of extreme cold and weather this week in Pakistan's earthquake zone has increased the risk of illnesses like

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pneumonia. According to Mohamud Khalif Bile, senior representative in Pakistan of the U.N.'s World Health Organization, in the past six week as many as 18 people have already died of pneumonia in the earthquake-affected areas. In addition to the deaths recorded from pneumonia, there was also a small measles outbreak reported in a tent camp in Muzaffarabad earlier this week. Due to the damage caused by the October 8 earthquake, more than two million people have been forced to camp out in tents or crude shelters in the areas of Pakistan controlled Kashmir (PcK) and North West Frontier Province (NWFP).

Source:

· UN fears more deaths in Pakistan quake-zone chill, Jan 05, 2006, http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060105/wl_nm/quake_southasia_dc_12&printer=1;_ylt=AsilrUhpDnyGR7DgLnNK319n.3QA;_ylu=X3oDMTA3MXN1bHE0BHNIYwN0bWE-

TURKEY

Bird flu claims first lives in Turkey

According to the latest reports from Turkish health authorities on Friday (January 6), another sibling has died bringing the death toll to three victims from the same family who have died of the H5N1 strain of the bird flu virus. This announcement comes just one day after Turkish health authorities said preliminary tests from the victims were positive for the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus. On Thursday (January 5), the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that it would dispatch a team to Turkey and samples from the victims were being sent to WHO laboratories in London for further testing. The children were from the rural district of Dogubayazit, in the eastern province of Agri, bordering Iran and Armenia. Since October of last year, several outbreaks of the H5N1 virus in birds have been reported in Turkey's impoverished eastern region. The children's doctor said they probably contracted the illness by playing with dead chickens and that the family had reported their chickens began dying late last year. A hospital official said that as many as 30 additional people were being treated for possible bird flu symptoms, while the government has announced that the district of Dogubayazit is under quarantine.

Source:

· 2 siblings die from bird flu in Turkey, Jan 05, 2006, http://www.ihf.com/bin/print_ipub.php?file=/articles/2006/01/05/news/flu.php
· Third Turkish Child Dies From Bird Flu, Jan 06, 2006, http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20060106/ap_on_he_me/turkey_bird_flu;_ylt=AmJmKzzcynSGG.r82MdTdvVJRIF;_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA-

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